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**Gary J. Goldberg**  
**President & CEO**

The Honorable William M. Thomas  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

June 2, 2005

Dear Chairman Thomas:

I am writing in support of the U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA). The Dominican Republic and the five Central American countries covered by the DR-CAFTA represent important growth markets for U.S. products and services.

Borax is the world's leading supplier of borates – boron nutrient products vital to fertilization, fruit and seed production – into the agricultural industry. We've been at the forefront of crop research since 1940, and offer the best product quality, technical expertise, supply reliability and customer service the world has to offer.

Borax believes that opening the DR-CAFTA markets to U.S. exports will ensure that the principles of sustainable development take hold in the region. Sustainability rests on the principle that we must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable development helps to develop and improve agricultural methods that satisfy environmental, social, and economic goals.

Boron deficiency is the most widespread of all crop deficiencies and addressing the problem could double to quadruple yields depending on the crop. Borax offers comprehensive technical support, and equally comprehensive range of products to meet the needs of different soils, crops, conditions, and farming practices. The DR-CAFTA region would make Borax agronomic expertise and commitment to sustainable development available in a region where it has to date been uneconomic compared to South American borate mineral products which contain high levels of impurities not geared toward sustainable agriculture.

In addition, DR-CAFTA will also provide for anti-corruption measures in government contracting and guarantee U.S. manufacturing firms a fair and transparent process for selling goods and services.

Your leadership in obtaining the approval of this agreement is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Goldberg", written over a horizontal line.

Gary Goldberg  
President & CEO

